



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL LEONARD C. SMALES

Colonel Leonard C. Smales is the commander of the 58th Operations Group, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM. He is responsible for training USAF mission-ready crews for special operations, combat rescue, homeland defense, nuclear surety, and priority DV airlift supporting national security operation plans. He leads all aspects of aircraft operations for the group's assigned UH-1H/N, HH-60G, MH-53J, MC-130H, MC-130P, and HC-130P fleet of aircraft.



Colonel Smales graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1981. He has held various positions to include instructor pilot/flight examiner, Chief of Operational Requirements, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command; Operations Officer, 550th Special Operations Squadron; Commander, 17th Special Operations Squadron; Director of Operations, 353d Special Operations Group; and Deputy Director for Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Operations Command.

#### EDUCATION

- 1981 Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Sciences, US Air Force Academy, Co
- 1986 Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL.
- 1994 Master of Science degree in Political Science-International Relations, Troy State University, Troy, AL.
- 1996 Air Command and Staff College, Non-resident program.
- 2002 Air War College, Non-resident program.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1981 – August 1982, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training; Laughlin AFB, TX.
2. August 1982 – December 1982, Student, C-130 Pilot Course; Little Rock AFB, AR.
3. December 1982 – July 1984, C-130H Pilot; 773d Tactical Airlift Squadron, Dyess AFB, TX.
4. August 1984; Student, C-130 Aircraft Commander Course; Little Rock AFB, TX.
5. September 1984 – November 1984, Student, HC-130 Pilot Course; Kirtland AFB, NM.
6. November 1984 – September 1988, HC-130 Aircraft Commander, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, Chief of Mobility, Chief of Weapons and Tactics; 33d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Kadena AB, JA.
7. September 1988 - January 1993, HC-130 Flight Examiner, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation; 9th Special Operations Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL.

8. February 1993 – September 1995, Chief, Operational Requirements, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL.
9. September 1995 – June 1998, MC-130P Evaluator Pilot, Assistant Operations Officer, Operations Officer, 550th Special Operations Squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM.
10. June 1998 – July 2003, Operations Officer, then Commander, 17th Special Operations Squadron; Director of Operations, 353d Special Operations Group, Kadena AB, JA.
11. August 2003 – June 2005, Deputy Director for Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL.
12. June 2005 – present, Commander, 58th Operations Group, Kirtland AFB, NM

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 6300

Aircraft Flown: C-130E/H, HC-130H/N/P, WC-130, MC-130P

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	May 27, 1981
First Lieutenant	May 27, 1983
Captain	May 27, 1985
Major	October 1, 1993
Lieutenant Colonel	April 1, 1998
Colonel	November 1, 2003

(Current as of Jul 05)